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The Advocate, March 10, 2011

Minnesota State University Moorhead

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Rally supports Kise workers

BY MATTHEW BECKMAN
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Students heading to the Kise dining center for their noon meal last Thursday were greeted in the entry hallway by thunderous chanting and a flock of white signs waving near the ceiling displaying “We support food service workers.”

This was the second in a series of MSUM food service rallies that took place outside of the Kise dining center. Students, staff and others were out showing their support for Sodexo food service workers.

Sodexo workers voted to unionize last fall, feeling working conditions, pay and clear days for time off within food service on campus aren’t adequate. They chose to unionize with the American Federation of State and County Municipal Employees Local 602, the labor union at MSUM. They have since met on two occasions with Sodexo representatives and negotiator, along with the lead Council 5 negotiator, Amanda Prince. AFSCME Council 5 acts as the umbrella for all AFSCME unions in the state.

David Renecker, president of the AFSCME Local 602 is representing the workers, and has been present for the first two negotiations, which he said is close to “stalling.”



Students and workers line the halls of the CMU on March 3 to rally for Sodexo workers.

JESSE TRELSTAD • jtrellstad.com

“If we come to a middle ground and agree on a few things, that’s negotiation. If they dig their heels in and refuse to negotiate, that’s against the law. They have to negotiate in good faith,” Renecker said.

In the first round of negotiations, a few things were worked out involving employee uniform issues.

Renecker said employees weren’t being provided with the adequate number of uniform

articles and were able to work that issue out.

“We basically got them to adhere to their own rules as a company,” he said.

In the second round of negotiations during last October, Renecker said Sodexo representatives were caught up in the beauracracy of who was involved on the side of the union, snagged on the issue of Renecker’s involvement as president of the Local 602.

Renecker said the second round of negotiations didn’t settle anything.

Representatives from AFSCME Council 5 told Sodexo they were available “24/7” for negotiations around Christmas last year, and they’ve finally set up a third round of negotiations on March 17 and 18.

After the way the second round of negotiations ended, Renecker is unsure how the third round will go.

PROTEST, BACK PAGE

Tuition hike meets mixed reviews

BY CHARLY HALEY
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Tuition will increase at MSUM next year, but the exact amount that students will have to pay is still not determined.

It is certain that students will see at least a two percent increase in tuition, because for the past two years federal stimulus money has lowered what students pay by two percent, and now the stimulus has expired.

“The Obama Economic Stimulus Act ‘bought down’ two percent of last year’s tuition increase,” Student Senate president Allan Branstiter said. “Since the stimulus was allowed to expire, there is no money to continue ‘paying down’ that two percent.”

The two percent increase was further explained by Jan Mahoney, vice president of finance and administration at MSUM.

“At the current year tuition rate, the amount that’s paid by the student is, for banded credits, \$3,070 per semester. The reason for that is because it was ‘bought down’ with federal stimulus money ... For next year, if there were no tuition increase, the rate would go back to \$3,127, and that’s a two percent increase that’s out of pocket for students, because the federal stimulus money, the two percent buy-down, has gone away,” Mahoney said.

The rest of the tuition increase will be determined in response to the amount of money that the Minnesota Legislature decides to give to MnSCU, and then how much of that amount MnSCU allocates to MSUM.

“Currently, Governor Dayton and the Legislature disagree on how much funding they will cut from higher education,” Branstiter said. “Governor Dayton’s plan calls for a six percent cut, while the Legislature seems more interested in a 16 percent cut. How much tuition

TUITION, BACK PAGE

GMW keeps things clean



Thompson enjoys working in Snarr page 8

Living in the flood zone

2011 FLOOD PREP

BY KELSIE O’KEEFE
okeeke@mnstate.edu

It’s a known fact in the F-M area that although most college students don’t own homes they have done their share helping to hold back the waters of the Red River year after year. But seeing the effects of flooding hasn’t deterred students from living in the flood zone.

Jordan Houselog, senior in business administration, lives on the third floor of Park East Apartments on Second Avenue in Fargo, right in the middle of the F-M flood zone.

“My first flood, in 2009, I was living on campus in John Neumeier and we were evacuated

after the first week,” Houselog said. “Last year I lived in Park School Apartments located up the hill from Woodlawn Park which was practically filled up. Sometimes we’d go and walk around it or stand on the bridge and wonder if we could put a canoe in the newly formed lake. We couldn’t. We didn’t have one and if caught the fine would be quite expensive.”

Houselog and his roommates chose to live in the apartments near the river despite being aware of the possibility of flooding.

“(Living in a flood zone) crossed my mind,” Houselog’s roommate Grant Ertl, senior in mass communications said. “But the rent was reasonable and the landlords seemed really nice and there was a pool so I figured it would be OK.”

Samantha Meske, senior in mass communications, lives on the second floor of Park East Apartments.

“My roommate and I considered the flood zone,” Meske said. “Our building managers assured us that the water would not reach the building. If I would have been on the first (floor) we would not have rented there.”

Park East Apartments residents leave their building from Second Avenue. In the past, the city of Fargo has closed the street to traffic and built a dike on the road. Park East Apartments has a plan in place for the residents’ alternate route, but hasn’t sent out any other information.

Though Houselog and his roommates haven’t had a chance to sandbag this year, they understand the importance and plan to help

if they find time between school and work.

“I’ll probably try to help out again this year,” Ertl said. “I always have a good time doing it and it really fills me with a sense of accomplishment.”

Ertl sandbagged in the 2009 flood but was turned away last year.

“It’s great to see that a community is so supportive of its residents,” Ertl said.

Houselog has also had positive experiences sandbagging.

“Unfortunately I have not had a chance to sandbag yet this year nor did I last year,” Houselog said. “In 2009 a friend and I went out every day the first week and I must say it may have been the best time I’ve had in quite some time.”

Theresa Hest, communications
FLOOD, BACK PAGE



The view from Dike West in Fargo during the 2009 flood

Advocate file photo

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Campus
Calendar

3.10-3.15

3.10	10:30a.m.-2:45p.m. Wall of Hope 11:30a.m.-1p.m. Acoustic Afternoon 2-3p.. Planetarium Outreach
3.11	8:30a.m.-4p.m. MN Reading Corps 10-11a.m. Planetarium Outreach
3.12	11:30a.m.-1:30p.m. Retired Teachers Luncheon
3.13	2-3p.m. RSC The Case of the Disappearing Planet
3.14	9a.m.-2p.m. Menagha History Day Visit 7-8p.m. Planetarium The Case of the Disappearing Planet
3.15	8a.m.-1p.m. Facebook for Business Workshop 12:15-2:15p.m. Science Center Outreach

The
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The Advocate encourages letters to the editor and your turn submissions. They should be typed and must include the writer's name, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occupation and any affiliations. Letters are due by 5 p.m. Monday and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off at The Advocate office in CMU Room 110 or e-mailed to us at advocate@mnstate.edu. The Advocate reserves the right to edit letters and refuse publication of letters omitting requested information. It does not guarantee the publication of any letter.

"English major solidarity!"

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News Briefs



Two federal marshals shot in St. Louis gunfight

Two federal marshals and a police officer were victims of a shootout while a suspect died during an arrest in St. Louis Tuesday morning, local police confirmed. The victims were all taken to local hospitals. One of the marshals was shot in the head and is in critical condition. A bystander was wounded during the shooting but had no serious injuries. The names of the officers and suspect have not been released.

Barack Obama shirks Libya

Britain and France are calling for military action in Libya, but the United States is reluctant. The two European countries said they plan to seek U.N. authorization for the creation of a no-fly zone over Libya, but President Obama, while threatening Muammar Gaddafi with "military options," is apparently reluctant to intervene. One high-level aide tells the New York Times that he is primarily concerned that the U.S. would appear, once again, to be meddling in the Muslim world.

Prankster O'Keefe strikes NPR

James O'Keefe is back in the game. The young conservative activist and prankster released a new video Tuesday morning showing Ron Schiller, a recently departed NPR fundraising executive, bashing republicans, the Tea Party and Juan Williams for Islamophobia during a meeting with what Schiller was told were representatives of a charity funded by the Muslim Brotherhood.

"They're seriously racist, racist people," he said of Tea Partiers. Schiller announced Monday that he was leaving for a job at the Aspen Institute. NPR strongly condemned his taped remarks Tuesday.

O'Keefe rose to fame with the sting videos that helped bring down the community organizing group ACORN.

Wisconsin democrats: Scott Walker prank call

Wisconsin democrats are filing an ethics complaint against Gov. Scott Walker, alleging that he broke the law in the now infamous "David Koch" prank call.

They charge Walker with trying to coordinate third-party spending, conspiring to incite disorderly conduct, accepting a trip to California and misusing the Attorney General's office, among other things. Walker, meanwhile, accused democrats of making secret calls to labor leaders Wednesday.

Needless to say, reports on Sunday that state Senate democrats would soon return to Wisconsin seem to have been premature.

Facebook to take on Netflix?

Amazon is already trying to get on Netflix's turf. Is Facebook next? Warner Bros. will begin renting movies digitally on Facebook, starting with "The Dark Knight." It will cost 30 Facebook credits to rent the film, which is \$3. Users will then have 48 hours to watch the movie. Goldman Sachs analyst Ingrid Chung says Facebook "could someday become a credible threat to Netflix."

MSUM Briefs



Multi-faceted artist to work with MSUM students

David Sisco, a composer, singer and writer, will work with music students and perform during a week-long residency sponsored by the MSUM Music Department.

The residency includes a master class March 31 from noon to 1 p.m., at which Sisco will coach several students who perform for him. The event is free and open to the public. At a convocation for music students the next day, Sisco will talk about his life as a composer and performer living in New York City, and perform some of his own work. That evening, at 7:30 p.m., the MSUM Concert Choir will sing a work commissioned for MSUM and composed by Sisco. Students and faculty members will also perform several of his song cycles. All events take place in the Roland Dille Center for the Arts.

Sisco is a multifaceted artist whose work centers on music, drama, writing and teaching. He has composed several musicals, including "Here I Am: A Musical Personal Ad" and "Variations on a Theme of You and Falling to Earth" with collaborator Tom Gualtieri.

For more information, please call Jenny Dufault at 218.477.4607 or e-mail her at dufault@mnstate.edu.

Online murder mystery series debuts Wednesday

"Curtain Call", a murder-mystery web series written and directed by MSUM film studies alumnus and staff member Michael Stromenger and shot entirely in the Fargo-Moorhead area, premieres online Wednesday, March 9, at www.curtaincallseries.com

The series follows two detectives as they investigate circumstances surrounding the on-stage murder of a talented local actress by a fellow actor. The series airs in 17 parts, a new part being posted online each week.

"Curtain Call" was shot over 10 consecutive weekends last summer on a shoestring budget of only \$2,500, Stromenger said. He used local talent and resources for the production, casting many well-known local actors and college students and hiring several MSUM film department students and alumni as crew members.

"My main reason for creating this series is to showcase the sheer amount of talent that the Fargo-Moorhead area has and to get the rest of the country to recognize it," Stromenger said. "The Internet is the most accessible platform out there and web series are increasing in popularity."

The filmmaker, who works as an AV technician in the film studies department, hopes people become intrigued by the mystery and spread the word.

For more information on the web series, call Stromenger at 218.477.4622 or e-mail him at stromenger@mnstate.edu.

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‘[Title of Show]’: ‘Not your grandmother’s musical’

BY BRIANNA BRICKWEG
brickwegbr@mnstate.edu

“[TITLE OF SHOW]” will be playing at the Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre from March 10 to 13.

“[TITLE OF SHOW]” is a musical about a composer and a lyricist collaborating to create a show for the New York Music Theater Festival in three weeks’ time. They decide to write the show about everything that happens while they are writing the show.

“The story is very sweet. It’s very irreverent at times. It’s very New York-theater based, so lots of jokes are about theater things and musical theater references that are really obscure,” Craig Ellingson said, “but the story itself

is about artists and friendships and I think that (theme) should be relatable to anybody.”

Ellingson plays Jeff, the composer, in the show and is also the MSUM theater department chair.

The show is directed collaboratively by the cast, which consists of Ellingson, Adam Pankow, Kathy Hanson and Carolyn Schmitz. Ellingson called the collaboration an “ensemble approach to doing theater.”

The cast has also gained assistance from two former advanced directing students, Meagan Kedrowski and Kimberly Miller, who come to rehearsals to give notes.

The cast consists of three

members of Music Theatre Fargo-Moorhead, a core group of musical theater performers in the F-M area. Ellingson, Hanson and Pankow come from this group and the fourth member of the group was unavailable, so they are working with Schmitz, an MSUM sophomore seen in shows such as “Rocky Horror Picture Show” as Magenta and “Rent” as Mimi.

“We usually work with students as stage managers and lighting designers and technical support. We feel that there’s so much opportunity for college students to do theater in town that we just wanted to have a playpen for ‘adults,’” Ellingson said. “We actually were able to extend our ‘playing,’ if you will, to include

a college student this time around and it has been working out really well.”

Schmitz has enjoyed her experience with the show. It is her first performance in Fargo-Moorhead outside of MSUM and she has enjoyed the experience.

“The show is so much fun to perform and is very easy to relate to as a student who is seeking to perform,” Schmitz said. “It has been rewarding to perform alongside community members of the F-M area.”

The show is minimalistic — the entire set consists of four chairs and a keyboard. MTFM has been working on chamber-size or smaller musicals and “[TITLE OF SHOW]” fit into that category.

This musical is different from what would be considered, as Ellingson said, “your grandmother’s musical.” The show is for mature audiences and colorful language is used multiple times throughout the show.

“It is not a Rogers and Hammerstein musical,” Ellingson said. “It’s contemporary, it’s edgy and it’s really quite a charming piece.”

Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at www.fmct.org. The show is at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Students awarded at film festival

BY CONOR HOLT
holtco@mnstate.edu

The 11th Fargo Film Festival wrapped this Saturday night after screening over 80 films, from animated shorts to feature narrative films.

Many awards are given out at the festival every year, from Best in Show to Best Screenplay, as well as awards in each individual category. There are also several other awards given out that are named after notable members of the Fargo Film Festival — members that are very special to the MSUM film department.

The Ted Larson Award is given in honor of MSUM professor Ted Larson, who passed away in 2000. Larson taught film history at MSUM for 32 years. He was also a long-time member of the Fargo Theatre’s board of directors, and helped plan the first Fargo Film Festival.

This year’s recipient of the Ted Larson Award was David Filipi.

“It was an honor to receive an award named after someone who meant so much in my life as well as to the film culture in the Fargo-Moorhead area,” Filipi said. “He was passionate about film history and he shared this passion with any like-minded person.”

Filipi attended MSUM from 1985 to 1990, and took all of Larson’s classes. He was also

Larson’s teaching assistant, and the two remained friends until Larson’s death.

Filipi is a member of the film studies committee at Ohio State University and teaches animation history.

The Rusty Casselton Award is given in honor of another MSUM professor, Rusty Casselton. Casselton taught film courses at Concordia College for 22 years before moving to MSUM in 2001 to work in the film studies department.

Casselton and his mentor, Larson, collaborated together on film restoration and special screenings at the Fargo Theatre. Casselton was a key member of the Fargo Film Festival until his death in 2007.

The award honors a student film, and this year’s recipient is “A Lutfisk Western,” directed by MSUM alumnus Eric Carlson. Carlson, along with the film’s producer Andrew Neill and writer Maxwell Heesch, knew Casselton as a professor before he died, and receiving the award means a lot to them.

“It’s definitely an honor,” Neill said.

All three of them have had films in the festival in previous years, but winning this award, as well as winning an Honorable Mention in the student category,

makes this year especially meaningful.

Another award given out every year at the festival is the Minnesota Film and TV Board grant, a \$1,500 contribution to an MSUM film student applicant. This year’s recipient of the grant is Nicholas Collins.

“I was blown away at first,” Collins said. The money will go towards his senior capstone film project, which he will be filmed next fall. The film is titled “Honesty;” it’s a character-driven drama about a married couple that develops problems when the wife finds a new best friend.

Collins had to submit his proposal for the project earlier this year. He submitted the film’s script, along with a full budget for the film and a shooting schedule. The grant will cover the film’s props, costumes and food.

Collins and his producer Steven Sherman will be holding auditions for the film this spring. The film will screen at the Fargo Film Festival next year as an invited film. Last year’s grant winner Kristen Conaty screened her film “The Years” last Saturday at the festival.

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The Aquarium

Saturday, March 19
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Fargo Theatre

Thursday, March 24
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INSIDE OUT STRINGS • Saturday, April 23 • Ages 21+ • Monkey Bar @ The Hub
G LOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE • Tuesday, April 26 • All Ages • Fargo Theatre
BRAT PACK RADIO • Friday, April 29 • Ages 21+ • The Venue @ The Hub
PETER ERSKINE (Jazz) • Friday, April 29 • All Ages (Beer & Wine w/ID) • Studio 222
LEO KOTKE • Saturday, April 30 • All Ages • Fargo Theatre
JOHNSON FAMILY BAND • Friday, May 6 • Ages 21+ • Monkey Bar @ The Hub
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email us: advocate@mnstate.edu

Advocate Editorial Board

The Advocate supports Kise workers

Kise workers demonstrated for the second time on March 3 in response to an ongoing labor dispute with Sodexo. The Advocate supports these demonstrations.

Back in November 2010, Sodexo, the world's second largest catering services company, reported a 4.1 percent increase in full-year profit, a trend they expect to continue in 2011. Despite this positive financial performance, the company has a poor record with its workforce.

On Jan. 13, Sodexo investors were notified by labor organizations from Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Morocco, Brazil and the United States of alleged violations of human and labor rights.

In the United States, Human Rights Watch revealed that Sodexo "threatened, interrogated and fired workers who tried to form a union."

The 2006 Sodexo "Employee and Labor Relations Guidelines" made this discouragement policy. The guidelines instructed management to make statements such as: "The union is allowed to make promises because it doesn't pay your wages. The union's promises are meaningless."

These unacceptable practices and the widespread nature of these grievances show Sodexo in a bad light, and MSUM should support its local workers in their effort to protect their rights. It would be shameful for us to allow Kise workers to be exploited by a multinational corporation right in front of our eyes.

The opinions expressed in The Advocate are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or student body. The Advocate encourages letters to the editor and any submissions. They should be typed and must include the writer's name, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occupation and any affiliations. Letters are due by 5 p.m. Monday and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off in The Advocate office or e-mailed to advocate@mnstate.edu.

NOTE: All letters to the editor are printed without edits



"Charlie's Oyster"

Illustration by Tate Mlady

Letter: In defense of Kappa Sigma

To Whom It May Concern, We had the pleasure last week of reading a rather venomous letter regarding our organization. We feel that he brought up points that should be addressed. While many of the events he listed had little to do with the organization as a whole, and rather individuals who made stupid choices, some of the events listed in his letter are true, and in the following shall be dissected. Regarding the homophobic email exchange, we do agree with Mr. Goerke as to the inappropriateness of their exchange; however, his claim that it gives "concrete evidence" to the Kappa Sigma mentality is ignorant. When you are managing chapters with such large numbers as Stanford, it is not easy to micromanage interpersonal relations. The actions of the brothers involved were wrong, we do not dispute that, but that does not reflect the Kappa mentality. The Kappa Sigma Code of Conduct, the chapter's constitution, and also the university by-laws prohibit such action. As to the response of the national organization, they are just doing their jobs. You can not expect them to baby-sit over every incident, the leadership of any chapter is put in place because they are competent leaders, and expected

to handle situations just as this one. The next statement regarding the Bible requirement was a little sketchy. It is a half-truth, as Stanford's charter was not removed. Kappa Sigma does not discriminate on any grounds, be it race, religion or creed, sexual orientation or otherwise. In response to the statements, Nic Josey, our regional recruitment manager and a representative of the national organization had this to say, "We are a professional development organization with a long and vibrant history involving a ritual which is familiar to all Kappa Sigmas. It is a misconception of the public that we require students to believe in the bible there are many Kappa Sigma's all over the country who believe in the Koran, Torah, are Buddhist and spiritual in their own ways...it seems to me that this student is speaking out of blind ignorance and that he should contact a representative of the fraternity to find out real information instead of just repeating what he sees on website blogs. Kappa Sigma's main goal on MSUM's campus is to provide a culture of excellence for the young men on campus through scholastic achievements, community service and leadership opportunities, while providing them with networking and scholarship opportunities as well." As for the incident with Texas-Christian, they are just plain dumb. The individual agreed to branding and the other brothers involved were stupid enough to allow themselves

to do it. It is clearly outlined in all governing documents of Kappa Sigma that branding or anything of the like is not allowed and is severely punishable. The men were operating outside Kappa Sigma laws and should be justly punished. How you feel this is a reflection of a Kappa Sigma colony of 25 people is beyond our comprehension, but we can assure you that there will be no branding in our Chapter. The sexual assault that took place at SMU is unfortunate; however, in no way does Kappa Sigma tolerate sexual violence. No details have come forward at this time, as you admitted yourself, and no conclusions can be drawn. It seems as if you are just mudslinging, a disappointing standard of research for an English and philosophy major (that was you in the following article, wasn't it?) While we feel your research and proceeding opinions were quite crude, we are gentlemen and would love the chance to sit down with you and have a intellectual discussion about your concerns, in fact, our own Nic Josey will be here this week and would be the perfect authority on all things Kappa Sigma. Please feel free to let us know what time works for you, and we would love to sit down with you. Who knows? Maybe you will want to join us, like you said, Brotherhood at all costs, right?

Sincerely,
The Men Of Kappa Sigma-
MSUM Colony

Letter: Honors perspectives

Dear Advocate Staff:
As an upper-class honors student at MSUM, I would like to express my concern about the article "Honors Students Discontent" published in the March 3rd issue of the Advocate. I was very disappointed of the inaccurate picture that was painted of the Honors program. When the title indicates that multiple students are unhappy with the program, it was disappointing to see that only one student was interviewed, especially when only interviewing one student for this article portrayed the program in a negative light.
As an example, Goerke implies that Honors students are all "valedictorians and members of the National Honors Society" who "carry impressive GPAs." I will not deny that those are usual qualities

found in the average Honors student, but that is not the reason students join the Honors program. It is about accepting academic challenges and striving to push the boundaries of ordinary coursework. And although an online class may not be ideal, the professors are not doing it out of spite, it is meant to help the program grow.
In conclusion, I was very disappointed that only one Honors student was contacted for this article, and the poor light in which the Honors program was depicted. I would suggest that in the future more care would be taken in the selection of interviewees, and to receive and understand opinions from both ends of the spectrum to avoid any positive or negative bias.
-By Courtney Johnson

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An ambassador of conversation

BY MEGHAN FEIR
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Thanks to Mark Zuckerberg, my international communications have flourished over the past five years.

It was the year 2006. Many of my older friends had graduated and I was left in the dusty hallways of our high school to fend for my lonely, 16-year-old self. Missing them terribly, I started my own Facebook account to stay in touch with my older comrades. Back then, Facebook was pretty much a college kid thing to do. I was a bit leery at first to sail in such uncharted territory reserved for more mature participants, but I threw my qualms aside and joined this social network so I could “stay connected” with my beloved friends. I was the second child in my high school

to create an account.

After joining this virtual world of status updates and friendly profile-stalking, I soon found a new calling: creating groups. I made various groups that year, two of them for outcasts of society (Strawberry Blondes), one titled “Pizzaholics Anonymous (PA),” and a group dedicated to Zorro which reached over 1,200 members at one point. I also joined random groups like, “Stuffed Animals are Your Friends,” “I Still Can’t Find Waldo” and “I’m a Fermata... Hold Me.”

That was where it all began. That was when my long list of virtual friends started to accumulate. In my overly sociable and curious state of teenhood, I managed to befriend people from Germany, Brazil, Italy, Turkey and other countries.

Many are aware of my menagerie of, as one of my friends titled them, “e-friends.” Joseph was the first Internet friend I made. I added the Canadian tennis player after he joined my Zorro group and caught my eye with his witty remarks he had posted on the group’s wall. He then invited me to his “I don’t know you, but I really like pancakes” group. We’ve been virtual friends ever since. In fact, we Skyped for the first time last week. After being Facebook pals for five years that webcam-to-webcam chat was long overdue.

Later that very same year my gregarious cyber self was introduced to a German man named Sascha. He was mutual friends with an exchange student I had known. Since I thought he was cute I asked him to be my newest friend. Our light flirting over MSN

messenger spanned across four years of broken English and the level two German I took in high school. I like to think that his modeling career took off because of my unwavering encouragement.

Cem and I started our friendship in a different manner. I actually met him in person, and I even met him before we added each other on Facebook. While I was playing the piano at a resort on Pelican Lake, this handsome Turk walked into the room to hear me play “Clair de Lune.” Conversation soon took flight. After spending one afternoon and evening talking to the man, I’ve never seen him again. Thankfully, the World Wide Web has helped us stay in touch. He is now engaged to a beautiful woman and is serving his required 6-month term in the military. A 2012 wedding is planned. I better receive an

invitation.

Social networking sites have allowed people to make friends they will never have to face in person. I have only grazed the surface of my collection of e-friends I’ve acquired over the years. However, these “friends” will never be able to meet me for a chat over a cup of coffee. Instead, I’ll be eating a taco and doing homework while we chat by way of keyboard with minutes of time lapses in-between each sentence. Oh, the thrill of it all!

Being a sort of ambassador of conversation with unknown people can be rather fun, but it has grown stale in recent years. I suppose I’ve already grown out of that phase of my life, for now anyway.

The surname: a personal pronunciation journey

BY RACHEL LEINGANG
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College is supposed to be a place where students “find themselves” by figuring how who they are. They probably take philosophy classes, get involved with clubs or charities and find a solid group of friends. I know who I am in relation to other people, but on a basic level, I’m pretty unsure about my identity for one big reason.

I don’t know my last name. Or, rather, I don’t know how it’s supposed to be pronounced. When a teacher is doing roll call and says “Leingang, Rachel – did I pronounce that right?,” no matter how they pronounced it, I have to say yes because they could be right or wrong, I wouldn’t know.

My last name is Leingang and its root is German. My ancestors were traveling farmers (kind of like gypsies with more concrete skills) who once lived in France, Germany and Russia. Basically, my name is hard to track because I don’t know where to look for it. It’s also not a common name. In fact, when I first left my hometown, a Mecca for Leingangs, I was stunned that people didn’t just know how to pronounce it. And then they would ask me for help with the pronunciation, and it’s been a problem ever since.

Since there is a total lack of real German speakers in my family, I usually hear a mix of “line-gang” and “lang-gang.” My older brother says “lang-gang” and so do my parents. I use them interchangeably depending on my mood and how classy I want to appear – “line-gang” sounds

much more professional and doesn’t have the unsavory rhyming capabilities that “lang-gang” does.

I’ve done some extensive Googling to little avail. I even Googled “How do I pronounce my own last name” and found many forums of like-minded and confused individuals. One forum even said, “My last name is Czech and I need to know how to pronounce it. I don’t want to look like those people with German last names who always say them wrong.” Is she talking about me? Because I often feel like a half-crooked German, considering I don’t know how to make German food, I’m not down with racism and I’m pretty awful at farming (or so I would suspect).

According to my younger brother, who is pretending to know about German

pronunciation though he knows nothing about the German language, it should be pronounced, “line-gong.” I have never said it that way, nor have I heard any of my relatives pronounce it that way.

In order to be able to correct my younger brother, I looked up a phonetic vowel pronunciation cheat sheet for German. I found that it should actually be pronounced, “leh-ing-guhng.” I really hate that. It sounds just like the way telemarketers pronounce it when they call and interrupt dinner, and I hate to think they’re right.

To read more from this writer, view her blog at racheleingang.blogspot.com

Craig Ferguson keeping late night television afloat

BY ROSS PETERSON
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If anyone wants a reason to believe that television is not worth watching, I point them no further than any late night talk show. It is unfathomable (with the exception of Craig Ferguson) of exactly how bad this television has truly become.

Last year, I wrote a column on how I no longer watch the news, and even went further that I no longer really watch television. This year, after the Conan vs. Leno fiasco, I decided to give late night TV a try on the prime networks, and preview Conan’s new show on TBS. Little did I comprehend the sheer amount of debauchery that was about to unfold. I started with watching Jimmy Fallon, just to get him out of the way at first. The sheer nervousness and social awkwardness with his guests was itself, funny. Unfortunately, I laughed “at” him rather than laughing “with” him, because not a single thing his writers could come up with were worth my breath. He was a more extroverted Michael Cera, sitting uncomfortably while

making faces to the camera much like a Dreamworks animated character would, smirky and unsure of what is going on.

But it’s easy to make fun of people with little talent, so let’s move on to David Letterman, a man of extraordinary talent and who has been in the late-night business for eons. Surely this man knows how to make me laugh. Unfortunately, much like any program on CBS, I am not part of their target audience, and therefore, I could not find David Letterman’s laughing at his own jokes nor the obnoxious commentary by his band any better than Fallon. The good news was that I was actually trying to get into the show, rather than bark at my own TV while watching a hack whose lack of talent won him a late night TV show.

Writing about Jay Leno isn’t worth anything on paper. I’ll exclude him from this list. God-awful. Why NBC wanted him to stay (and CONTINUE to stay) is beyond me.

Now for a little commentary on Conan. This man was a hero. A legend. The savior

of late-night television and the only thing that kept me entertained aside from re-runs and unoriginality. Conan was a man who put effort into his comedy, and made me laugh like a 12-year-old girl just by breathing. All of that changed when he moved to TBS. Aside

from not going to a better network and taking way too little money than he deserves, my criticism of Conan, is I find it terrifying that a man that was once so funny could become so unfunny simply for switching to a network that calls itself, “Very funny.” With the monstrosity

that is George Lopez warming him up, you would think Conan would knock crowds dead. Unfortunately, this was not the case. So thank you, Craig Ferguson, for carrying late night on your shoulders. You can still be funny amidst all this.

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Students juggle class work and wedding planning

BY KELSIE O'KEEFE
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Graduation is just around the corner, although some students are ready to trade their graduation cap for a wedding veil.

Danelle Blotter is in love and isn't waiting to finish school before showing the world.

She and her fiancé Luke Schlichenmayer will be married August 6, before Blotter starts her last semester of classes in mass communications and Schlichenmayer moves to Fargo to begin fieldwork for his occupational therapy license.

"We decided that we really didn't want to wait until I was graduated from college," Blotter, 21, said, "and it worked out well ... I will graduate this fall and so it worked out well that Luke would move to Fargo after we are married and then I will graduate. So we're only having one semester of me in college while we are married."

Blotter has found there are difficulties in planning a wedding between going to school, working and doing homework.

"Motivation," Blotter said. "I have no motivation. Some days are good, some days are bad. One of the biggest difficulties is the stress, worrying if I'll meet my time lines, not only for school but also for wedding plans and details."

Before going on their honeymoon in Colorado, Blotter and her fiancé will be married in a casual, country summer ceremony in her small, hometown church in Turtle Lake, Minn. Their reception will be held on her family farm with mason jars, milk bottles, lights in the trees and lawn games like croquet and ladder ball.

While Blotter will be spending a week outdoors in the mountains, Anne Voeller, a 21-year-old human development and family science major at NDSU, isn't sure she can fit a honeymoon into her school schedule.

"I will be in the middle of graduate school and we are unsure what Brayden (fiancé) will be doing," Voeller said. "We thought of maybe taking a long weekend up north and renting a cabin right

after the wedding and then going on a more traditional honeymoon the following year (2013) when I finish graduate school."

Just days ago Voeller and her fiancé, NDSU student Brayden Witt, had to change their wedding date in Woodland Hill Winery vineyard in Delano, Minn., after receiving Voeller's graduate school schedule from Augsburg College.

"I would have class on June 23, 2012, our wedding date," Voeller said. "So, we decided to move the wedding back three weeks until July 14. There's an example of an obstacle with planning a wedding as a student."

Voeller wasn't expecting to plan a wedding while still in school.

"I'm actually surprised that he asked me already," Voeller said. "I thought we would wait until after finishing school, but I couldn't be happier. The biggest struggle for me is to actually work on homework instead of browsing the Internet for wedding stuff."

Although they've been dating for five years and talked a lot about marriage, Voeller got engaged in October and wanted a summer wedding with more than eight months to plan so they set the date for 2012.

"We didn't want to rush into planning everything while finishing up our senior year," Voeller said.

The Advocate's own features editor Erica Anderson, 21, has loved the rush of planning a wedding with a short engagement.

After dating for just 10 months, Anderson and her fiancé, Scott Kingston, were engaged in September. With less than seven months of planning, they're getting married this Saturday in a small church in Park Rapids, Minn.

"We decided to have a shorter engagement," Anderson said. "I'm so glad we did, I highly recommend having a short one. It's more exciting ... it was challenging but the stress kind of made it fun."

Anderson hand-made all her decorations, invitations and programs with some help from her sister and friends. So when

their plans changed from a large wedding in September to a small, personal ceremony in March and back to a large wedding, like every other student on campus, Anderson and her fiancé were thinking about spring break and decided to keep the March date so Anderson could have week to finally relax.

"All my flowers are fabric or paper," Anderson said. "Going to school I was able to be around computers with InDesign and a printing shop so I could design the programs and invites and get them printed in the same location."

Anderson has always wanted a long honeymoon right after her wedding, but with the expense of a large ceremony, school, and her fiancé's new job, their honeymoon plans have been put on hold. But Anderson isn't disappointed.

"The big picture is that you're going to be married on that day and that's incredibly powerful and exciting," Anderson said. "It really doesn't matter how it turns out, I get Scott as my husband out of the whole deal and if everything else flops that's OK. I get the best part."

Although she wouldn't change a thing, Anderson admits her coursework has suffered slightly in the shadow of planning a wedding.

"I had to learn to balance it all," Anderson said. "I've been in school for four years, I only get one wedding. So the wedding trumped school stuff at times. I had to skip a class for dress alterations, I'm fine with that. Even just understanding that maybe not putting 100 percent into a class is OK. I told Danelle Blotter that you've just got to let some things go. If having the wedding you want means getting a C in a class, then that's a small price to pay. You'll soon forget the C you got but you're not going to forget your wedding."

Through all the classes, homework, planning and multitasking, all three brides said they wouldn't change a thing.

To read more from this writer,
view her blog at
kelsieokeefe.blogspot.com



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Danelle Blotter and Luke Schlichenmayer



Anne Voeller and Brayden Witt



Scott Kingston and Erica Anderson

Adv Eats

Advocate staff critiques local restaurants

BY JOHN ENGER
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Habib Cuisine, one of Fargo's newest restaurants, brings African and Mediterranean food to the great

CHRIS FRANZ • chrisfranzphoto.blogspot.com

Mandhazi and Sambusa appetizers from Habib Cuisine, located at 2225 13 Ave. in south Fargo.

Habib Cuisine serves a taste of African-Mediterranean food to Fargo

planes — which is no easy task. Shamsi Sheikhuna, a 23-year-old business major at NDSU, opened the place with her younger sister on December 10, 2010. They both still have full-time jobs at Wells Fargo, but enlist family members to work at the restaurant in their absence. Their brother is the head waiter and a shy 13ish boy (somebody's reticent nephew) stocks tables with napkins and refills water glasses. It has the distinct air of a family restaurant. It's more intimate than an Applebee's, and the service is great, but one has to wonder if the 13-year-old is getting paid.

Sheikhuna said the goal of the restaurant is both to give Fargo a taste of something different and to give people from other countries a taste of home. It does both of those things exceedingly well.

The appetizers are well worth ordering. The sambusa, a triangular pastry filled with spiced ground beef, came crackling directly from the deep fryer. The shell was crisp and flaky like an egg roll and so well wrapped that none of the hot oil contaminated the meat inside. At 99 cents, one could order a few of the little packages and have a great meal.

That being said, their most popular dish, goat meat, put the sambusa to shame. It came in rough chunks barely clinging to curved rib bones. Every piece was as tender as meat can be while still maintaining shape. The spices were not over done, but elevated the delicate, earthy flavor of the goat — very gourmet for \$8.99.

All the entrees come with one side. Rice is a good safe option, but the mufo is better. Mufo, which is a free form loaf of course, lightly sweetened corn bread, comes with a bean and potato soup for dipping. The beer-like flavor of the mufo mixed with the smoky flavor of the bean soup made for an exotic combination that was instantly good enough to be enjoyed by any Midwestern palate.

All together, the goat meat, the mufo and the bean soup make a meal that is just as good in Fargo as it was a thousand years ago in Somalia.

The ambiance is somewhat disorienting. The walls are a

soothing, almost appetizing deep rust red color. The lamps above the booths give off a flattering yellow glow perfect for date night. There are fine multi-color exotic silk curtains over the windows. There was only one woman in the place not wearing a hijab. Yet the ceiling is made from suspended dentist's office fiberboard tile with florescent light panels that make it impossible to forget the blowing snow outside — a fact that would be nice to ignore.

Florescent lights aside, Habib Cuisine is an adventurous, yet easily accessible restaurant. Those looking for an alternative to Applebee's, but hoping to actually enjoy a meal should consider stopping by.

Habib Cuisine is at the corner of 13 Ave. and 25 St. in Fargo by Little Caesar's Pizza.

To read more from this writer,
view his blog at
blockplane.blogspot.com

Zepper uses life to inspire poetry, gets relocated

BY CHARLY HALEY
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Monarch butterflies, apartments and The Ramones are just a few things that inspire poet and Corrick Center professor Kevin Zepper.

Zepper started his college education at the Corrick Center, which was then the New Center. He graduated in 1982 with an Associate in Science. He then got his bachelor's in English-writing at MSUM, and continued on to get his



Jessica Fleming • The Advocate

Corrick Center professor Kevin Zepper.

Master of Fine Arts in English, focusing on poetry.

After college, Zepper worked in advertising and freelance magazine writing for a few years. He then started teaching and eventually landed a full-time position at the Corrick Center.

"Now I'm teaching in the place I first started school," Zepper said, "which is, to me, like giving back. It's full circle."

In addition to teaching, Zepper has been writing and publishing poetry.

"I have three little chapbooks of poems that I've written," Zepper said. "I guess in those particular books of poetry, I've been trying to write about essentially myself, or the things that I see, or the things that I experience."

Zepper's first chapbook is "The Fifth Ramone," composed of slam poetry.

"They're meant for performing, but they somehow worked OK as poems, too," Zepper said.

Zepper said he's grown and changed a lot in his writing since "The Fifth Ramone."

"It's a fun book," he said, "but right now I look at it and think that's just such a different part of me."

Zepper's second chapbook is about apartment life, called "(Suffering From) An Apartment Complex."

"It's almost a neurosis you develop after a while when you live in an apartment," Zepper said. "Apartment living, it's funny, because it's sort of transitional, but then if you stay there long enough, it is a transition into kind of 'this space is your home' though you don't really own it."

Zepper said both "(Suffering From) An Apartment Complex" and "The Fifth Ramone" sold better than his most recent book, "I Bring You Dead Things and Other Love Poems," because they have a more target audience.

However, Zepper still views "I Bring You Dead Things" as a continuation of his growth in writing.

"It's about the other kinds of love," Zepper said. "Everybody thinks about love as romantic or familial or something like that, and so these are the other kinds of love that we kind of forget about, like unrequited love or fan love, or putting somebody on a pedestal — that kind of love."

Zepper said he feels he has grown a lot from his three published works.

"I guess those things are, I don't know, those are the things I've written in the past," he said, "and the things I'm writing now are, I think they're more reflective."

Zepper described a poem he recently wrote about an encounter with monarch butterflies on a country road.

"I saw up ahead of me just this cloud of orange," Zepper said. "Well, I realized that this cloud of orange getting close to me was butterflies. I slowed down, because I didn't want to hit these things, because you know, I just feel funny about that."

Zepper has been using experiences like this to inspire his recent writing.

"What's been coming out in my writing right now is not just observing," he said, "but really being patient in the moment and really picking up what's going on or what I'm feeling directly, whether it's real or not, or imagined."

He also draws inspiration from his students.

"My students always keep me inspired," Zepper said. "Whether they realize it or not ... they make me think about my own work."

Next semester, Zepper will be working on another chapbook and a book-length manuscript to submit for publishing.

Since the Corrick Center will be closed, Zepper will resume teaching in spring 2012 in the English department.

"It's a new challenge, and you know, to say I'm not excited by new challenges is wrong; I usually invite them or create them, so I'm excited about it," he said. "I still have my time to do here, so I guess I'll be thinking more about that move in May, after this is complete. Read till the end of the chapter before you move on to the next."

Zepper said to his knowledge, a majority of the Corrick Center professors did get rerostered to continue teaching at MSUM.

"I am saddened by the fact that the Corrick Center's closing, and I feel a lot of regret for it closing," Zepper said. "But I'm still alive, I still have my house and my family, and I have the English department to go to, so things'll look better down the road."

To read more from this writer, view her blog at charlyhaley.blogspot.com



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Stay safe for spring break

Avoiding Mexico could save students their lives

BY LAURELLEE LOFTSGARD
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Spring break is one of the most anticipated times of the year for many college students. They save up to go somewhere warm, party with their friends and take advantage of the week off from school to relax. This year, it doesn't seem to be going that way. Out of the 20 MSUM students asked about plans for spring break, only three are going anywhere. One of those three is going after spring break to save money and another is going for the Pass It On community service retreat. A lot of students responded that they are going to try and work more to save money. Junior Zach Toedter was actually planning on going somewhere for

spring break, but then used the money he had been saving to fix his car. "Once I had spent all of my money to fix my car, my previous plans of going somewhere were gone," he said. "Now I have to stay and work instead of going somewhere fun." Going somewhere warm and exotic may seem like an awesome thing to do during break, but everyone staying home might just have the right idea. An article from msnbc.com shows that college students in Texas are being urged not to go to Mexico, one of most popular destinations for spring breakers. The article said that drug violence does not discriminate; innocent bystanders and people who are in the wrong place at the wrong time

have gotten hurt or even killed. The Texas Director of Public Safety Steven McCraw said in the article, "Our safety message is simple: avoid traveling to Mexico during spring break and stay alive." This message seems harsh to students who have been there in the past. Junior Kirsten Haugrud went to Puerto Vallarta last year for spring break and said she couldn't have felt safer. "We would walk down to the marina close by to our hotel and we even went downtown shopping. There wasn't one time I felt like I was in danger, but maybe things have changed over this past year," Haugrud said. Even though there is media turmoil over whether Mexico is safe for tourists, it still has four of the top 10 places to go for

spring break in 2011, according to hellobeautiful.com. There are some tips for students who are still planning on traveling there is year:

- Remember to always stay in groups
- Don't let anyone wander off by themselves
- Try and only go to tourist safe spots recommended by your hotel
- If at all possible, try and stay in an all-inclusive hotel. Most of your food and beverages are already covered by one cost and they usually have tons of activities for you to do right in the resort, which eliminates the need to go elsewhere.

Top 10 spring break destinations for 2011

1. Cancun, Mexico
2. Panama City, Florida
3. Miami and South Beach, Florida
4. Europe
5. Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
6. Acapulco
7. Bahamas and Jamaica
8. South Padre Island, Texas
9. Cabo, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic
10. North American Ski Resorts

studenttravel.about.com

GMW keeping it clean

BY DANE KIPP
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Although they keep the buildings clean and running, few people get to know the general maintenance workers of MSUM. Mark Thompson is one of these GMWs and has been for roughly five years. He's a much beloved face in the Snarr residence hall where he works, and he's taken an interesting path to his current job. As a younger man, Thompson had a four-and-a-half year stint in the Navy. While there, he gained many technical skills. "I went to 'A School' for diesel mechanics," Thompson said. "In that was included small boat engine overhaul, and heating, air conditioning and refrigeration." After he was done in the Navy, Thompson eventually got a job working for the 3M Company.

He worked there "just shy of 20 years" in the data storage department. Thompson's job was as a maintenance crafts person, troubleshooting programs for automated equipment. "I was laid off," Thompson said. "Basically, the data storage department was moved to China for outsourcing." Following his layoff, Thompson spent time looking for a new job and networking with his friends. Eventually, he found an available GMW position at MSUM. "I love working here," Thompson said. "I really enjoy working with the younger people. The whole campus is a source of high energy. I find a lot of satisfaction working with the residents in housing. Eventually, I'd like to finish my bachelor's degree and then retire." Thompson is not currently

taking classes, but he has talked to an adviser about pursuing a degree in operations management here at MSUM. Thompson enjoys working in the dorms, and the students that live there enjoy having him. "He always has a great attitude," junior Ryan Moore said. "He's always willing to make sure he keeps things clean for us. He accommodates us really well ... I think everyone who knows him well knows he's a fun guy." Junior Sam Ankrum feels the same. "Mark is the most wonderful, exceptional GMW there is in Snarr," Ankrum said. "He's genuine and he talks and he's friendly. He's just awesome."



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Mark Thompson is a general maintenance worker in Snarr Hall.



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Writing intensive requirements assessed

BY MATT LECH
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The University Writing Committee is in the process of determining what the writing intensive requirements of the future will look like. The committee released a report on the subject last month, and students will have an opportunity to guide the process, and potentially win an iPad.

The coming months will offer students and faculty an “opportunity to shape writing intensive and decide where we are going to go with it on campus,” said Stacy Voeller, chair of the University Writing Committee.

The report, posted on MSUM’s “Writing Matters” page, assessed 120 different papers from WI courses from different academic areas.

“The main goal of the report was to take a look at the writing intensive competencies and put them to the test,” Voeller said.

One observation made by the report was that English 101 doesn’t list finding, using and citing source material as a skill addressed by the class, an omission that can potentially lead to poor habits.

“Plagiarism was detected in more than one paper,” Voeller said.

The report suggests that plagiarism detection software, such as Turnitin or SafeAssign, could be used to curtail the problem.

“That’s a good idea,” physics major Murshid Saqlain said. “I don’t think it would be difficult to implement.”

“I think they should,” said JaNae Boswell, a mass communications

major, “especially if they caught someone doing it. There’s so many classes that take a lot of writing, so I think they should use that.”

Billy McDonald, who majors in both public relations and marketing, agreed with Saqlain and Boswell.

“Every once in a while I wonder if what I’m citing is more plagiarism than citing,” he said, “so I think having software would be appropriate.”

Several limitations to the report, including the limited sample size and the difficulty of assessing transfer students, were discussed at the March 4 meeting of the committee.

However, Professor Richard Lahti of the College of Social and Natural Sciences, who participated in assessing the papers, maintained that “the

results that were achieved in spite of those limitations are not trivial.”

The committee will continue to gather information, though, which is why Voeller is looking for 200 seniors to take the ETS test from March 23 through to 25.

“The top incentive for taking the test is an iPad,” Voeller said.

From a student’s perspective, Voeller said that a possible future change to the requirements would be the quantity of classes needed.

“The most apparent thing for students would be if we changed the requirements of how many writing intensive courses are actually required,” Voeller said.

McDonald said he wouldn’t be opposed to that

“I’ve always been kind of a poor writer, so I’d rather have more writing intensive classes be required, because if you leave

here without being able to write it’s embarrassing.”

Preparation for employment was a consideration that lead to the creation of the writing intensive program.

“Employers that have traditionally employed MSUM students have reported back saying our students have had difficulty with written communication,” Voeller said.

Speaking of writing intensive in general, Saqlain considered it beneficial.

“If they don’t have prior writing experience, they can actually screw up in their major’s writing courses, so I think it’s a very good thing,” he said.

To read more from this writer, view his blog at mattlech.blogspot.com

Students evaluate Bennett Park co-op

BY GRANT NELSON
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CHRIS FRANZ • chrisfranzphoto.blogspot.com

Remanufactured homes are made available to own by Bennett Park Co-op in Moorhead.

MSUM students are reaching out to the residents of the Bennett Park co-op.

Bennett Park is a trailer community in Moorhead. The residents are currently leasing their trailer homes on an 18 month lease. Residents have been given the option to purchase their homes when their lease is up.

Two years ago, the land the trailer park resides on was sold to the residents of Bennett Park. The goal is to have the residents buy their homes so they can become board members for the Bennett Park Co-op. If this happens, the residents will be able to make decisions regarding the co-op.

MSUM social work majors will be volunteering to help Bennett Park residents evaluate their finances. Nicole Keegan, who is doing her social work internship at Bennett Park, is leading the effort.

Social work major Ryan McGillivray will be helping Keegan by volunteering 20 hours, meeting with the residents and giving them information to get their finances in order.

“We are not financial experts, but we will try to network the residents to the right people so they can be approved for a loan,” McGillivray said.

The trailer homes cost around \$30,000. To secure a loan to purchase their homes, the residents must have a credit score of 610 or higher. The main goal of the volunteers is to help the residents who want to buy their home raise their credit score to at least 610.

Last week, volunteers went door-to-door contacting the residents of Bennett Park, trying to set up times to go over their finances. Not all residents were willing to meet with the volunteers, but volunteer and social work major Mauri Gonsorowski said those who were didn’t understand the financial aspect of purchasing their homes.

“Most of the people that live in these homes do not realize the payment aspect, and they do not know how to go about buying their homes, so it will be a job to help them understand this more clearly,” Gonsorowski said.

This week, volunteers will be able to meet face-to-face with the residents to try to get them on track to owning their own homes.

Programming competition revived

BY SADIE JONES
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The Association of Computing Machinery students at MSUM are bringing back a competition tradition.

ACM students are planning a computer programming competition for high school students on April 2. A team of three students and one coach will be creating simple computer programs to solve a certain puzzle using the JAVA, C++ and Python languages.

“We’re going to present them with a problem like – say we give them a map and it’s almost AAI like and you’re supposed to logically figure a way to get through the map. In order to do that you need to specify certain methods or functions that would incorporate with the main program,” Wil Linebaugh, a computer information technology student said. “We’ll give them easy problems and hard problems and they’re supposed to find a solution within each one. The points will be tallied up and the person with the most points wins.”

The ACM students will also be facilitating a workshop on March

19 as a precursor to the competition.

“We’re going to be hosting a workshop to this contest. We’re going to have categories of JAVA, C++ and Python. We’re going to divvy the high school student teams of three students and one teacher to each (language) workshop. That way they can get an idea of what they want and how to use it. Provided they don’t have any classes at their schools,” Linebaugh said.

Fargo North, Fargo South, Moorhead High and Park Christian high schools have been contacted about participating in the competition and an attendance of at least 70 students is expected.

Local businesses Digi-key, Lighthouse1, Microsoft as well as others have helped donate money and prizes for the programming competition. Student Sarah Altmann felt that a high school competition was something that needed to be revived after dying off.

“They did high school programming contests like 10 years ago, and they used to do them all the time here. We were just kind of hoping to start that back up again.

It’s something they always did and had a real good turn out,” Altmann said.

The students have encountered some difficulties with reviving the competition.

“It’s been difficult to get it started,” Altmann said. “being it’s the inaugural one. Getting students and schools interested has been a challenge. We’ve started advertising on Facebook. We’ve tried all these different things. We’ve gone to schools, we’ve dropped off posters but it’s still been hard to get people to register.”

Though there have been difficulties, the students hope there will be a rewarding benefit to all involved.

“The reason we do that is because that’s how we code,” Altmann said. “You have to look at the problem, figure out what they want, write it out and then code it. So we want to practice with the how-to write it out so they can use that when they actually get to the coding part.”

For more information please visit <http://acm.mnstate.edu/>, e-mail almansa@mnstate.edu or richarjo@mnstate.edu or visit the Facebook event page.

Frick in construction

BY ANDREW JASON
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Most students have seen the construction that is taking place in Flora Frick but few realize the extent of that construction, which has been in the process for over a year and will cost upwards of \$750,000.

The construction is part of a plan to move several offices and services around to better serve students. The construction will move the Dragon Stop from its current location to where the old post office was. This means the bookstore will expand to take over the space of the current Dragon Stop. The Academic Resource Office and Disability Services will move from their locations in the CMU to new offices in Flora Frick, while Career Services and Veterans Affairs will move into the current ARO space.

“The idea behind this construction is for (Flora Frick) to be a one stop shop,” said Jeff Goebel, physical plant manager.

Goebel said the construction is taking so long because so many

offices have to be relocated. All the new offices should have the adequate space they now need. For example, the ARO will now have a place for tutoring and testing.

One thing many students are excited for is more seating by Café Connection. The Café will be moved to where the old bookstore was and there will be more seating where Café Connection is now.

MSUM is trying to keep the cost of construction down as much as possible by using as many MSUM employees as possible.

“We operate like our own little construction company,” Goebel said.

Projected construction deadlines:

- Dragon Stop - late April.
- ARO & Disability Services- mid-June.
- Bookstore renovation will begin in April.
- Career Services and Veterans Affairs will move into the ARO by next fall.

Energy drinks: Fine in moderation, dangerous when overused by consumers

BY MICHAEL SMITH
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The product name implies it all — energy drinks claim to increase focus and stamina while providing a boost.

The energy enhancement comes from large amounts of caffeine and sugar, two ingredients commonly found in energy drinks.

“The thing with energy drinks is that they are not required by law to label how much caffeine is in (the product),” said Carol Grimm, MSUM director of health and wellness. “The thing that we are concerned about, with caffeine especially, is that if you are taking in a lot, it affects your blood pressure.”

Red Bull, one of the most popular energy drink brands, puts 114 milligrams of caffeine in a 12 ounce can, significantly more than the 75 milligrams averaged in a cup of coffee and

the 54 milligrams found in a 12 ounce Mountain Dew.

“I think anything can be dangerous, especially when you are dealing with supplements or energy drinks if you are using them in a way they are not intended to be used,” said MSUM head athletic trainer Andrea Scott. “The whole problem with all of these things, and why it is a problem at all, is that people have really abused them.”

The trend of energy drinks is to go bigger and bigger. With the larger cans now available with some brands, the caffeine included increases with the size.

“I think what you really have to focus on is the moderation issue. If you are drinking eight to 10 of them a day, you could have a problem,” Grimm said. “Inherently there is nothing bad in most food or beverages. It is when you go to the extreme

of doing it all the time, that is when we have an issue. Anytime you start doing things in larger quantities, it is going to have a negative effect.”

Other issues arise when energy drinks are consumed prior to workouts or used by student athletes.

“The big thing is actually the heart rate and the blood pressure elevation before you exercise,” Grimm said. “When you start exercising that is automatically going to come up so you don’t want to have something else adding on top of that.”

Too much caffeine by itself, but especially before strenuous activities, can also lead to dehydration. As a diuretic, caffeine increases urination, emptying the body of fluids without much, if any, replenishment.

“

The big thing is actually the heart rate and the blood pressure elevation before you exercise. When you start exercising that is automatically going to come up so you don’t want to have something else adding on top of that.

Carol Grimm

MSUM director of health and wellness

“Some of it is probably a perception. There is a certain amount of placebo effect with it, too,” Scott said. “So much of it is just hype. In my opinion you don’t really need that. If you are motivated to exercise and motivated to workout, then you shouldn’t need 30 milligrams of caffeine to make that happen.”

The NCAA can suspend student athletes for high levels of caffeine because it is considered a stimulant.



Photos by Chris Franz • chrisfranzphoto.blogspot.com
Energy drinks are displayed in the Etcetera Shop downstairs in the CMU. The drinks are 50 cents off in the Etcetera Shop on Thursdays.



“I don’t think they are good in any way, shape or form,” Scott said. “I would not recommend them to anyone for any reason. I think it is foolish.”

There are many natural habits that people can get into to avoid fatigue and gain a competitive advantage.

“You hear about people taking all these things to get bigger, faster and stronger,” Scott said. “The reality is that if we have a decent diet and drink enough water, all of those

things can happen.”

Sleep is also a key component to feeling prepared for the day and its activities.

“I cannot express the importance of getting adequate sleep,” Grimm said. “I’m talking seven to eight hours of sleep. Uninterrupted sleep is the big thing.”

To read more from this writer, view his blog at smithmi.blogspot.com

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Athletics Director Doug Peters announces the recent successes of the men's track and field team on Tuesday in the CMU. The team won the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference title and celebrated by sharing cake with students. Photos by Chris Franz • chrisfranzphoto.blogspot.com



Student organization aims to increase attendance for athletics

BY MICHAEL SMITH
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MSUM has its own driving force to increase student support at sporting events.

Nemzek Noize, a self-described “rambunctious” and “very energetic” club has made a valiant effort to do that since it started just after homecoming of last year.

“It started as fifteen or twenty of us that went to games anyway and we came up with the idea to try and get some funding and organize a little bit,” said Nemzek Noize president Andrew McKenzie. “We would watch college basketball or football games and they always had this massive crowd. I guess I looked at it and thought I would really like to see that (on campus).”

The club is open to everyone with a passion for MSUM and Dragon athletics.

“Basically we take high-energy people that have a lot of school spirit and capture what we envision seeing on campus,” McKenzie said. “We have kind

of revamped school spirit at MSUM.”

Nemzek Noize even reaches out to underclassmen as soon as they are on campus.

“We hit orientation hard,” McKenzie said. “This is the largest (freshman class) they have had in five years but I think it is also the most energetic. We were one of the most represented, visual organizations at orientation. It just skyrocketed from there.”

As Nemzek Noize continued to grow, they had to implement a code of conduct.

“We actually run with some rules,” McKenzie said. “We try to adhere to good sportsmanship ... we enforce no tobacco and no alcohol, nothing as far as being disrespectful. We don’t yell specific names or numbers unless it is for our team and we are cheering someone on. We do enforce it to create a fun, family-friendly atmosphere.”

The 200-person club has made an effort to be present at the games of each sport.

“We strive to represent every

sport,” McKenzie said. “If we can’t make it to their game, we will post congratulations for the big victories on our (Facebook) fan page, letting them know that we recognize the success they are having.”

Despite the group’s effort, it is still difficult to expand the attendance for certain sports.

“Volleyball, basketball and football are our bread and butter. Those are the big sports, they just draw the most crowds the way it is,” McKenzie said. “A lot of what happens is that it reflects upon (team) record and how fun the environment is around it. People feel somewhat uncomfortable with soccer. We just really don’t know what to yell and sports we don’t know how to cheer for, it is really tough to get people there. We feel kind of out of place so it is hard to make that happen.”

Facebook, along with other social media, is used by Nemzek Noize to reach out not only to current members but it is also used as a recruitment tool for



Courtesy of MSUM athletics

interested students.

“Social media is the best way to get kids,” McKenzie said. “We have an actual group page on Facebook and a fan page. We are also linked in with like every athletics site possible.”

Nemzek Noize works closely with the athletics department as NaDean Schroeder, assistant athletics director of media and public relations, is the group’s adviser and Jon Wepking, athletics media relations assistant

for social media and marketing, is the liaison to the department.

“Athletics right away was great in helping us out,” McKenzie said.

For more information on Nemzek Noize, see them on Facebook or visit the organization of student activities office.

To read more from this writer, view his blog at smithmi.blogspot.com

TUITION, FROM FRONT

is raised next year is directly related to how much the state government decides to cut out of higher education funding.”

Student Senators David McCallum and Kayla Hawley said there is a request from MSUM administration for a five percent increase in tuition. This increase would be in addition to the two percent increase from expired stimulus funds. However, the five percent depends on how much money MSUM receives after the Legislature makes their decisions about funding for MnSCU.

“The reality is we’re going to get less state money,” Mahoney said. “We don’t really know how much less at this point, but in order to balance the budget, we’ve already made almost \$3 million dollars in cuts ... now we’re asking for approximately \$2 million dollars in a tuition increase, which would be that five percent. If we don’t get that, then we might have to cut programs.”

The tentative five percent is a response to cuts in funding from the state. This response is trying to bridge the gap between the university’s costs and the amount of money received from the state to cover those costs. McCallum and Hawley said another part of the response is potential faculty lay-offs and minor decreases in programs and services.

Students have differing opinions on the tuition increase.

“I’d rather have higher tuition than professors and other faculty members possibly getting their jobs cut or less funding to a specific program or event or something like that,” freshman Ryan Quinn said.

Some are against the idea of increasing tuition.

“I don’t really like it personally,” freshman Robert Otterness said, “because I have enough trouble paying for tuition now, and it’s just gonna make it worse.”

Others are unconcerned, at least for now.

“(Tuition increase) has to

happen everywhere, so I’m almost kind of accepting of it,” junior Sarah Cervantez said, “and I mean, of course I don’t like it, paying for it, but right now I take out loans, so I don’t really notice it.”

Mahoney and Jean Hollaar, associate vice president of finance and administration, said the cut in funding and increase in tuition is not new to MSUM this year.

“The total revenue that the university operates on, part of it comes from tuition and part of it comes from state appropriation,” Hollaar said. “What’s been happening is that state appropriation part of our budget has been shrinking. And for the university’s budget, we’ve been cutting back and saving money, but yet we’ve had to raise tuition in some ways to replace some of that lost state appropriation.”

Hollaar said tuition increase has been worse in the past.

“I think it was in 2004 and in 2005,” she said, “both years we had a 15 percent tuition increase, and that was in direct response to the change in state appropriation. We’re not doing that now.”

Director for the Center of Economics Education Gregory Stutes said the Legislature is making decisions on either raising taxes or making cuts to state funded programs based on Minnesota’s current economic state.

Stutes said the decrease in state funding for higher education may have short-term benefits for the state economy, but could cause problems in the long-run.

“You see the immediate effect of cutting education in that you don’t have to make that expenditure,” he said. “What you ignore is the long-run effect in that the quality of education is lower, the quality of the work force is lower, therefore the quality of the state is lower in the future.”

“(College students) are the future of the Minnesota economy,” Stutes said. “I recognize that nobody likes to pay taxes, but education — in economics we

frequently describe education as having an ‘externality’ or a ‘spill-over effect’ meaning that by getting an education, you’re not only going to help yourself, but you’re going to help other people in the state.”

Students seem to agree with Stutes.

“We need higher education and funding for it so that people do choose to get educated,” Cervantez said, “because that’s the only way that we can keep growing as an economy as a whole. So I don’t think (cutting higher education funds) is the right route to take. I think education is really important, and people need to realize that so we can keep moving ahead.”

Some students are disappointed that the state seems to care less about higher education.

“Unfortunately the state of Minnesota is starting to not care about higher education the same way they did,” Hawley said. “They aren’t funding the same, it just keeps going down.”

Overall, the student opinion toward a decrease in funds for higher education seems to be one of discontent.

“It’s kind of disconcerting,” Quinn said. “Higher education, in my opinion, should always be toward the forefront of people’s opinions of where money should be put throughout their government programs.”

The Minnesota State University Students Association has scheduled days for students who are Minnesota residents to lobby against cutting MnSCU funds. For more information, students can contact student senator and MSUSA campus coordinator Grant Hagen at hagengr@mnstate.edu.

Students with concerns about increased tuition can contact Student Senate at stusen@mnstate.edu.

To read more from this writer,
view her blog at
charlyhaley.blogspot.com

PROTEST, FROM FRONT

Renecker stressed that all of this is in support of the food service workers, and he said people should still patronize dining services on campus.

“In the end it affects the employees,” he said. “It’s the employees that make or break

a company ... The employees at dining services are trying to keep their chins up, they work very, very hard.”

Representatives from Sodexo were reached out to for comment, but weren’t available in time for print.

The online version will be updated to reflect their side of the issue.

To read more from this writer,
view his blog at
mattjbeckman.blogspot.com

FLOOD, FROM FRONT

studies professor, lives in the flood zone on North River Road in Fargo next to the Red River. She has seen firsthand the effects of a community that comes together to help out its residents, and how much students’ efforts help.

“In 2009, everyone came to help — colleagues, administrators, past and present students, friends, family — it was wonderful,” Hest said. “In 2010, the city built a clay dike by the house so we didn’t have to sandbag. I can’t tell you how incredible people were to help. It is a strong testament to the type of students, faculty and administrators we have on this campus. I was so impressed and touched because it was very stressful in 2009.”

Knowing how touching it is to have a whole community of support, Hest urges students to help the flood efforts in any way they can.

“I tease my students that I will give them bonus points,” Hest said. “But I usually just give them some food and my heartfelt gratitude. I do encourage students to help in any way that they can. Many of them are needed to help with their own homes. Also, help is really important after the flood with all of the cleanup.”

Meske has already sandbagged this year and plans to fill more bags in the coming weeks.

“I have sandbagged this year and in the 2009 flood,” Meske said. “It is hard with school and work but when looking at the big picture it helps a lot ... People in the Fargo-Moorhead area should help do it. Whether it be even an hour, it still makes an impact.”

To read more from this writer,
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